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April 12, 1996

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Mr. William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Re: Preemption of Local Zoning Regulation of Satellite Earth Stations, IB Docket No. 95-59

Dear Mr. Caton:

I am writing to respond to the FCC's Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking released March 11, 1996 regarding preemption of certain local regulation of satellite earth station antennas. The proposed changes by the FCC would allow residents of apartment communities to install satellite dishes of one meter or less on balconies or in windows without approval by the owner.

Ripley-Wright Associates is in the real estate development business. We currently own and manage five apartment communities in the Hampton Roads area with a total of 1,328 individual units.

I am concerned that the proposed changes will adversely affect my business and I question the Commission's authority to control our properties in this way. There are several reasons why I feel the owners must retain control over their properties.

First, the appearance of a building is directly related to its marketability. If residents were allowed to mount satellite dishes onto railings and outside walls on balconies and patios, the building would appear unattractive to other current residents as well as to future residents. People desire their homes to be attractive and would be turned away from communities which were not appealing aesthetically.

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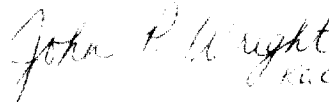
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Second, maintenance and safety issues are a concern with the installation of satellite dishes. Water leakage, corrosion of metal mounts as well as the weakening of concrete could cause safety hazards and costly maintenance problems.

Third, problems may arise due to limited access of satellites in certain areas. Some services that may be desired by residents may not be available to them as access to satellite dishes may not be possible for everyone.

As you can see from the concerns addressed above, this issue is very important not only to my company but to other multi-family property owners as well. I believe it is a violation of our property rights for the FCC to interfere with our relationship with our residents. Please consider these important issues before making your decision. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


John P. Wright

cc: The Honorable Owen B. Pickett
The Honorable Robert C. Scott
The Honorable Norman Sisisky
The Honorable John Warner
The Honorable Charles Robb